

DAILY BULLETIN

MARCH 5, 2003

TRANSCRIPT: POWELL TELLS FRENCH TV HE SEES SUPPORT FOR IRAQ RESOLUTION

March 4: interview in Washington with France's TF-2 TV 1

TEXT: U.S. CHARGES TWO YEMENI CITIZENS, PRAISES GERMAN LAW ENFORCEMENT

Yemenis charged with aiding terrorists; Germans assisted in arrest..... 2

TEXT: U.S. PLEDGES \$60 MILLION TO REBUILD AFGHAN EDUCATION

Money will go to books, school buildings, teacher training 2

TEXT: BUSH'S APPROACH REVOLUTIONIZES FOREIGN AID, USAID SAYS

Also, clarifies development agency's mission, Natsios adds..... 2

TRANSCRIPT: RADEMAKER SAYS ARMS CONTROL REMAINS VIABLE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Urges universal adherence to chemical, biological arms treaties 3

TRANSCRIPT: POWELL TELLS FRENCH TV HE SEES SUPPORT FOR IRAQ RESOLUTION

March 4: interview in Washington with France's TF-2 TV

Secretary of State Colin Powell told French television March 4 that he is "increasingly optimistic that if it comes to a vote, we will be able to make a case that will persuade most of the members of the Security Council to vote for the resolution" on Iraq recently proposed by the United States, Britain and Spain.

In an interview with France's TF-2 TV, Powell nonetheless acknowledged the possibility of a veto. "France will have to make its own judgment as to how it will deal with this resolution," he said.

"We don't want to see a war, but we also know that if it hadn't been for the threat of war, nothing would have been accomplished over the last four months; and if it is still not possible to get a strategic change in the mind of Saddam Hussein, then war may be necessary to compel him to disarm."

In the face of Iraq's defiance of Resolution 1441 and previous measures, Powell said, the choice is whether Saddam Hussein "should face serious consequences and whether the UN is irrelevant."

He dismissed Iraq's destruction of missiles on the grounds that it "is keeping in place the infrastructure to make them all over again once the pressure is off. We have the pressure on."

Powell said the United States is “prepared to do what is necessary militarily, if it comes to that. And although we were disappointed in the Turkish vote [against deployment of U.S. combat troops in Turkey], I can assure you that our plans are flexible enough to handle this decision on the part of the Turkish parliament.”

TEXT: U.S. CHARGES TWO YEMENI CITIZENS, PRAISES GERMAN LAW ENFORCEMENT

Yemenis charged with aiding terrorists; Germans assisted in arrest

The U.S. Justice Department announced March 4 that two Yemeni citizens have been charged with conspiring to provide material support to the al-Qaeda and HAMAS terrorist groups.

Mohammed Al Hasan Al-Moayad and Mohammed Mohsen Yahya Zayed were arrested January 10 in Frankfurt, Germany, after a year-long investigation and undercover operation by the FBI’s Joint Terrorism Task Force.

In a March 4 press release, the Justice Department said the arrests “could not have taken place without the substantial assistance of our friends in German law enforcement.”

“Prosecutions like this target the very lifeline of the terrorist organization,” stated U.S. Attorney Roslynn R. Mauskopf of the Eastern District of New York, where the complaints that led to the arrest were issued. “By cutting off the flow of money, weapons and other tangible support, we can cripple these organizations and prevent them from carrying out future attacks against innocent civilians.”

TEXT: U.S. PLEDGES \$60 MILLION TO REBUILD AFGHAN EDUCATION

Money will go to books, school buildings, teacher training

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has announced a \$60 million plan to help rebuild the shattered educational system in Afghanistan. The three-year plan calls for the renovation and construction of more than 1,000 schools, textbook printing and teacher training.

USAID announced the plan February 27 after a meeting between President Bush, Secretary of State Colin Powell, USAID Administrator Andrew S. Natsios and Afghan President Hamid Karzai. The announcement came during Karzai’s two-day visit to Washington.

“In village after village that I visited in Afghanistan, the people told me the hope for the future was their children. And that meant education,” said Natsios in a USAID press release explaining the U.S. commitment to education in the battered Central Asian nation.

The U.S. program will allow publication of about 15 million textbooks, and training for 30,000 classroom teachers, according to the release.

TEXT: BUSH’S APPROACH REVOLUTIONIZES FOREIGN AID, USAID SAYS

Also, clarifies development agency’s mission, Natsios adds

President Bush’s proposed Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) is revolutionizing foreign assistance by linking it to development performance, the head of the U.S. international development agency says.

In March 4 testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator Andrew Natsios said the MCA reflects the administration’s belief that incentives tied to a country’s performance are essential for persuading it to embrace reforms and improve its policies or institutions.

Bush proposed in March 2002 to increase the United States' core development assistance by 50 percent over three years and tie the additional aid, which would be channeled into a Millennium Challenge Account, to "greater responsibility from developing nations."

Natsios said, however, that principles such as good governance, country ownership, performance-based eligibility and result-based accountability should not be limited to the MCA but "must infuse all of our development assistance."

USAID welcomed the MCA as the "strongest possible commitment by the administration to making development a core element of our foreign policy," he said.

Natsios said the initiative also gives his agency the opportunity to clarify its role and better focus its activities within the broader framework of a U.S. development strategy.

He emphasized that the MCA should be viewed as "only one piece" of administration efforts to spur development, which also include World Trade Organization trade-liberalization negotiations, HIV/AIDS initiatives and humanitarian assistance.

Because the MCA, due to its strict criteria, will assist only a limited number of countries, Natsios said the needs of "large majority" of developing countries will be handled by USAID and other agencies and organizations.

Therefore, he said that in addition to supporting the mission and operations of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), which will administer the MCA program, USAID should focus its activities on:

- countries that narrowly miss getting into the MCA;
- the second tier of good performers that demonstrate willingness to reform;
- failed or failing states that need post-conflict, transition or humanitarian assistance;
- countries where aid is justified by strategic U.S. national security interests.

On MCA implementation, Natsios said that the administration will ask countries to develop their proposals by engaging all the relevant civil society and private sector groups. The MCC will be able to offer technical assistance to support these efforts but countries themselves, not the MCA, will be managing the process, he said. And when it comes to execution, the administration will be seeking simple mechanisms that require less oversight

and less U.S. management than traditional projects, Natsios added. He said the MCA will not only employ local institutions for country development but will also rely heavily on local institutions for the in-country expertise.

TRANSCRIPT: RADEMAKER SAYS ARMS CONTROL REMAINS VIABLE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Urges universal adherence to chemical, biological arms treaties

Washington - A leading U.S. arms control official says arms control remains viable in the 21st century and, as evidence, points to the 2002 U.S.-Russian Moscow Treaty that he says will produce "the largest reduction ever in deployed strategic nuclear warheads."

Assistant Secretary of State for Arms Control Stephen Rademaker says, however, that the Bush administration's approach to arms control "has been to proceed cautiously because we don't share the attitude that you can find elsewhere that any agreement in the area of arms control has to be a good thing."

Speaking in a recent one-on-one interview with Washington File Security Affairs Writer Jacquelyn Porth, Rademaker went on to explain that administration officials "are not prepared to sign up to negotiations just because the process of negotiating is a good thing." Having just returned from a session at the Geneva-based Conference on Disarmament (CD), he said: "We don't accept the notion that process is more important than substance. And, I think you do find that many other countries have a strong devotion to the process of arms control."

That process can become deadlocked. Rademaker pointed to the CD's inability over the past six years to agree on a mandate for the ad hoc committee that would negotiate a ban on fissile materials. "The principal sticking point is the linkages that have been established by certain other delegations, he said, "where they take the position that they would not be prepared to agree to the initiation of negotiations on a FMCT (Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty) unless there were also agreement within the CD to commence other negotiations, or at least a discussion of other proposed arms control agreements."

Rademaker said there have been three agreements that have been linked “in one way or another to the initiation of a FMCT negotiation.” These take the form of a Prohibition of an Arms Race in Space (PAROS), negative security assurances for non-nuclear weapons states, and a proposal to create an ad hoc group with a mandate to discuss possible ways to achieve nuclear disarmament.

Talking about broadening the scope of existing arms control accords during his February 20 interview, Rademaker expressed gratitude that countries such as Guatemala and Palau have subscribed to the 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention (BWC). “It is our view that treaties like the CWC and the BWC should be universally subscribed to,” he said, “and so we actually make it a practice to encourage countries that have not yet acceded to the treaties to do so.” The official said he met earlier this year with the president of Palau and urged him to consider acceding to both the CWC and the BWC and, in fact, he responded favorably: Palau acceded to both treaties in February.

Rademaker also discussed U.S. concerns about the long-term viability of the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). “It’s been a concern with the NPT for a long time that if countries began to develop nuclear weapons in violation of the NPT that would lead other countries to conclude that they needed to do the same in order to defend themselves - that they could no longer rely on the NPT for defense against nuclear-armed neighbors and some would say they needed to resort to developing their own nuclear weapons.”

It is that kind of potential unraveling of the regime, he said, “that people have long been concerned about.” The United States does not want to see the NPT unravel, Rademaker said, “so the best way to avoid that is to ensure that the NPT’s norms of behavior are adhered to by all countries, including North Korea.”

Rademaker discussed other arms control issues including the upcoming CWC Review Conference in April in The Hague, the effectiveness of the International Atomic Energy Agency, conventional arms control in Europe, missile defense, confidence building measures, the G-8 proposal to counter the spread of weapons of mass destruction, and a U.S. proposal to restrict the global export of non-self-destructing landmines.

Please Note: Most texts and transcripts mentioned in the U.S. Mission Daily Bulletin are available via our homepage www.usmission.ch. Select “Washington File” from the drop-down menu under “News.”